

Submitter: Freda Bax  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Education  
Measure: SB633

Dear Senator,

My name is Freda Bax and I am a licensed psychologist who works with many high needs students to outline their educational and psychological needs through comprehensive psychological evaluations. I'm writing to ask you to support a bill that will come up for a hearing in the Senate Education Committee on March 21st. Senate Bill 633 sets aside critical funding for Oregon's highest needs students. The bill would establish a special education multi-district collaborative model which promotes the establishment of a network of special education centers in Oregon dedicated to healing our youth who struggle with the most acute mental health and disability challenges.

The kids I see for various Independent Educational Evaluations paid for by their relevant school districts tend to have very high needs in which the district is struggling to address. Matching student needs with placement options is increasingly difficult in Oregon, given the removal of so many residential and day treatment facilities over the past few decades. Establishing Centers for Excellence is necessary to meet the needs of our students, to give district representatives a path to supporting their students more effectively, and to provide parents and families with wrap-around services for students who require trauma-informed mental health support in order to access their free, public education.

As a strong believer in Serendipity Center's mission and model to provide evidence-based, trauma-informed services to public school students, I support Senate Bill 633. This bill would advance the field of special education and children's mental health in Oregon so that more students will receive an equitable education experience and thrive. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Freda Bax  
Licensed Psychologist  
MindSights Co-Owner